

Message Text

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45

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EUR-25 IO-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 RSR-01 OMB-01

CIEP-02 STR-08 /150 W

----- 024990

R 241438 Z MAY 73

FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2806

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

UNCLAS JOHANNESBURG 0445

CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E. O. 1 1652: N/ A

TAGS: ELAB, SF

SUBJ: POLITICAL & PRESS REACTION TO BILL GIVING AFRICANS THE
QUALIFIED RIGHT TO STRIKE.

REF: JOHANNESBURG 0434

1. ACCORDING TO JOHANNESBURG ENGLISH- LANGUAGE NEWSPAPERS
SPOKESMEN FOR UNITED & PROGRESSIVE PARTIES & MULTI- RACIAL TRADE
UNION COUNCIL OF SOUTH AFRICA (TUSCA) HAVE EXPRESSED TENTATIVE
& QUALIFIED SUPPORT FOR DRAFT BILL EXTENDING RIGHT TO STRIKE
TO CERTAIN AFRICAN WORKERS UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS.

2. PROGRESSIVE PARTY MP HELEN SUZMAN REPORTEDLY OBSERVED THAT
WHILE BILL CONSTITUTES WELCOME STEP FORWARD IN INDUSTRIAL
RELATIONS IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER IF GOVERNMENT HAD SIMPLY
AMENDED INDUSTRIAL CONCILIATION ACT OF 1956 TO INCLUDE
AFRICANS AS QTE EMPLOYEES UNQTE & THUS MAKE THEM ELIGIBLE TO
JOIN REGISTERED TRADE UNIONS. TUSCA SPOKESMEN & NEWSPAPERS ALSO
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MADE THIS POINT.

3. UNITED PARTY MP MARAIS STEYN & G. F. JACOBS REPORTEDLY OBSERVED THAT BILL WOULD GIVE BLACK WORKERS QTE TEETH UNQTE IN NEGOTIATING WITH THEIR EMPLOYERS (STEYN) & THAT IT WOULD HELP STABILIZE LABOR SITUATION IF BLACKS RESPONDED POSITIVELY (JACOBS). STEYN VENTURED ADDITIONAL OPINION THAT BILL WAS QTE A MOST IMPORTANT DEPARTURE FROM GOVERNMENT POLICY UNQTE WHICH QTE RINGS IN A NEW ERA IN LABOR RELATIONS ACROSS THE COLOR LINES IN SOUTH AFRICA UNQTE.

4. BLACK NEWSPAPER THE WORLD EDITORIALIZING THAT GOVERNMENT WAS TYING RIGHT TO STRIKE WITH CONTINUING DISCRIMINATION & INEFFECTIVE MACHINERY ALSO CALLED FOR TRADE UNION RIGHTS FOR AFRICANS AS LOGICAL SOLUTION TO PROBLEM.
LUTKINS

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NMAFVVZCZ

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*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

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TAGS: ELAB, SF
To: AF
CAPE TOWN
DURBAN
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